IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

IN RE: UNIFIED MESSAGING

SOLUTIONS LLC
PATENT LITIGATION

MDL No. 2371

Master Docket No. 12 C 6286

ALL CASES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

JOINT PRELIMINARY REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's Order of September 10, 2012, Plaintiff Unified Messaging Solutions LLC ("Unified Messaging") and all Defendants submit the following preliminary report in anticipation of the October 12 Initial Pretrial Conference.

I. Attorneys Who Will Attend the Initial Pretrial Conference.

In attendance on October 12 will be:

Name	Party Represented	Primary City and State
Edward R. Nelson, III	Unified Messaging	Fort Worth, TX
Timothy Grochocinski	Unified Messaging	Chicago, IL
Stephanie To	Unified Messaging	St. Louis, MO
Christopher Schenck	Google, Inc.	Seattle, WA
Benjamin F. Sidbury	Etsy, Inc.	Charlotte, NC
Steven J. Reynolds	Avid Life Media, Inc.;	Chicago, IL
	HomeAway, Inc.	
James J. Lukas, Jr.	Cupid PLC;	Chicago, IL
	Northern Illinois Gas Company	
Robert Barz	BNY Mellon, National Association;	Chicago, IL
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	Corp.;	
	UBS Financial Services, Inc.	
Galyn Gafford	HSBC Bank USA, National	Dallas, TX
	Association;	
	HSBC North America Holdings Inc.;	
	HSBC USA Inc.;	
	Citibank, N.A.;	
	Citigroup Inc.	
Michael Gaertner	HSBC Bank USA, National	Chicago, IL
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	HSBC USA Inc.;	
	Citigraph Inc	
Ury Fischer	Citigroup Inc. Avalanche, LLC	Miami, FL
Thomas L. Duston	Groupon, Inc.;	Chicago, IL
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	VMWare, Inc.	
Timothy J. Carroll	The Vanguard Group, Inc.;	Chicago, IL
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Jay Heidrick	Sprint Nextel Corp.	Kansas City, KS
	Plentyoffish Media, Inc.;	
	WeeWorld Inc.;	
	Where Are You Now Ltd.	
Max Ciccarelli	Southwest Airlines Co.	Dallas, TX
Kal K. Shah	Orbitz, LLC	Chicago, IL
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Kurt Mathas	AOL Inc.;	Chicago, IL
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Lam Nguyen	Facebook, Inc.	Palo Alto, CA
Thomas Cushing	Morgan Stanley; Morgan Stanley &	Chicago, IL
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Michael D. Findlay		-
Jordan A. Sigale	CMI Marketing, Inc.	Chicago, IL
Peter H. Hanna	Charter Communications, Inc.	Chicago, IL

Yar Chaikovsky, Benjamin Sidbury, and Max Ciccarelli expect to speak on behalf of all Defendants at the pretrial hearing. Other Defendants' counsel, however, may also speak if issues arise that are unique to their clients.

II. Preliminary Understanding of the Facts Involved in the Litigation and Critical Factual and Legal Issues.

The parties submit the following statements regarding the issues in the litigation:

A. Joint Statement

The cases centralized before this Court involve allegations of infringement, unenforceability, and invalidity of one or more of the following U.S. Patent Nos. 6,857,074 ("the '074 patent"), 7,836,141 ("the '141 patent"), 7,895,306 ("the '306 patent"), 7,895,313 ("the '313 patent"), and 7,934,148 ("the '148 patent") (collectively "the patents-in-suit"). The patents-insuit share a common specification and generally relate to receiving and storing communications on a server and allowing users to access those communications through a browser or other application program.

B. Unified Messaging's Statement

Aside from the number of Defendants in suit, this case is similar to most other patent infringement cases. The critical legal issues are questions of claim construction — how the asserted claims of the patents shall be construed in light of the relevant specification and prosecution history. The critical factual issues involve the nature of Defendants' accused

¹ UMS asserts all patents-in-suit against 42 defendants, all patents-in-suit with the exception of the '074 patent against HSBC, and only the '148 patent against the remaining defendants (approximately 11 defendants).

systems and products — whether the accused products or systems embody and/or practice the claimed systems and methods (as construed).

Unified Messaging believes that a claim construction order setting forth a clear construction of disputed terms and phrases, and good faith mediation conducted by the Court or an appointed third-party mediator, are most meaningful to the efficient and effective resolution of the various cases. To this end, Unified Messaging proposes an accelerated schedule with respect to the claim construction proceedings of the two earliest-filed cases, *Unified Messaging Solutions LLC v. Facebook, Inc.*, et al., and *Unified Messaging Solutions LLC v. Google Inc.*, et al. Unified Messaging refers to these two cases as the "Phase 1 Cases" in its Proposed Case Management Order.

Additionally, Unified Messaging requests two mediation deadlines for the Phase 1 Cases — one requiring the parties to complete mediation within sixty (60) days following the Initial Pretrial Conference², and a second requiring mediation within sixty (60) days following the issuance of a claim construction order. Similarly, Unified Messaging requests that the Court establish two sets of mediation deadlines for the parties in the Phase 2 Cases, the first to be held by August 28, 2013, and the second after any follow-on claim construction proceedings (and resultant order).

C. Defendants' Statement

The predominant legal issues in this case are the construction of the disputed terms and phrases in the patents-in-suit, the validity of the patents-in-suit, and the non-infringement of each accused instrumentality. The predominant factual issues in this case are the operation of each

² The Phase 1 Cases were within weeks of Court-ordered mediation deadlines when the Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation issued its Transfer Orders.

accused instrumentality, the conception and reduction to practice of the alleged inventions by the named inventors, and the state of the prior art.

Defendants agree with Unified Messaging that a claim construction order setting forth a clear construction of disputed terms and phrases is the first legal issue that should be addressed in this case. Not only will this Court's construction of the disputed terms and phrases inform the scope of fact and expert discovery, but it may also lead to early motions for summary judgment of non-infringement and/or invalidity and the possibility of early resolution of some cases through mediation and/or settlement.

Unlike Unified Messaging, Defendants believe that "phasing" the litigation—undertaking multiple phases of claim construction and discovery for different sets of defendants, with multiple Markman hearings—would frustrate the purpose of the MDL and cause duplicative work for both the parties and the Court. A multi-phased approach would also create a risk that Defendants in later phases would effectively be precluded from being fully heard on issues that are litigated by Defendants in earlier phases. Notably, when Unified Messaging specifically argued before the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation that the Facebook and Google actions should be excluded from this MDL and proceed into claim construction ahead of the other actions, the panel rejected that argument. See Dkt. No. 1, at 3 ("While we recognize that transfer of the Facebook and Google actions could result in some delay to these two cases, we balance that against the overall efficiencies gained.") Defendants respectfully suggest that the Court decline Unified Messaging's request to revisit that issue here. In the interest of maximizing efficiency and fairness, Defendants propose that all parties currently included in these centralized litigations, plus any new parties to be added by Unified Messaging within the next month, proceed to claim construction on a unified schedule in Spring 2013.

Defendants' proposed schedule will quickly and efficiently prepare this case for a *Markman* hearing by May 2013. To accomplish this goal, Defendants propose that the parties exchange limited initial disclosures, Unified Messaging provide its infringement contentions, and Defendants then provide their invalidity contentions.³ With this information exchanged, Defendants propose that all parties should be in position to begin the claim construction process on January 25, 2013. After exchange of terms and briefing by the parties, this case will be ready for a *Markman* hearing at any date of the Court's choosing after May 10, 2013.

After this Court's ruling on the disputed terms and phrases, Defendants propose to meetand-confer with Unified Messaging regarding the preparation of an efficient schedule for fact
discovery, expert discovery, mediations, and dispositive motions. Based on these discussions,
the parties would then submit a joint schedule or competing schedules for this Court's
consideration and discussion with the parties at a case management conference at a date and time
of the Court's convenience.

III. Proposed Case Management Order.

The parties have been unable to reach agreement on a proposed Case Management Order.

Unified Messaging's proposed Case Management Order is attached as Exhibit A. Defendants' proposed Case Management Order is attached as Exhibit B.

IV. Agreed Order For the Preservation of Documents.

The parties present their proposed agreed order for the preservation of documents as Exhibit C.

V. Additional Items Required of Plaintiff.

³ It is Defendants' view that no additional fact discovery is necessary before proceeding with the *Markman* hearing. Defendants propose staying additional discovery until following claim construction to permit the parties to focus early on this potentially case dispositive phase of the litigation.

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A. **Listing of Present Motions**

There are ten motions pending among the centralized cases, including two letter briefs

seeking permission to file motions for summary judgment and five motions related to severance

and/or transfer. Identification of each motion, including the relevant case caption, Northern

District of Illinois case number, and ECF Document Numbers are included as Exhibit D for the

Court's convenience.

B. **Listing of Pending Related and Tag-Along Cases**

There are currently thirty-six Related Cases pending. Each case and its present status are

set forth in Exhibit E. Plaintiff expects to file approximately thirty additional lawsuits in

December 2012 or January 2013, with additional sets of approximately thirty lawsuits filed at six

month intervals thereafter.

C. Hard Copies of Each Patent-in-Suit

Pursuant to Section 3(e)(iii) of the Court's Order Regarding Initial Pretrial Conference,

Dkt. No. 15, Plaintiff has delivered two hard copies of each patent-in-suit, each set submitted in a

tabbed, three-ring binder with identification of the cases in which that patent is at issue.

Dated: September 28, 2012

Signatures of Counsel Below

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 28, 2012, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Edward R. Nelson, III
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